



April 29, 2015

The Honorable Ed Whitfield
2184 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Whitfield:

On behalf of the American Foundry Society (AFS), thank you for hard work to secure approval of the **Ratepayer Protection Act of 2015** (H.R. 2042) before the House Energy and Commerce Committee. With some of the largest, most expensive new environmental regulations in history on the horizon, metalcasters need a balanced approach to environmental and energy policies instead of overly restrictive regulations that will unnecessarily increase our electricity costs and hurt our competitiveness.

H.R. 2042 includes a number of provisions to empower states and protect U.S. manufacturers and foundries, as well as American ratepayers, as they navigate the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) new Clean Power Plan. Under EPA's proposed regulations for existing power plants, expected to be released this summer, electricity rates are estimated to increase by an average of 15 percent in a majority of states. EPA's own analysis shows its rule will force the closure of 46 to 49 gigawatts (GW) of coal-fired power plant capacity. This is equal to about 15 percent of all U.S. coal-fired generation capacity.

As an energy intensive trade-exposed industry sector, access to affordable and reliable electricity is critical to operating our foundries and maintaining our competitiveness. Reliability is also a safety issue since we utilize molten metal (iron, steel and/or aluminum) to produce castings. Higher energy costs will force foundries to lay off workers and in some cases, will close their doors altogether.

Given the impact of this far-reaching proposal, H.R. 2042 would extend the deadline for states having to submit an implementation plan until all judicial review of the rule is finalized. Also, it would also allow states to opt out of complying with the EPA plan should a state's governor, in consultation with other relevant state agencies, find that the rule has an adverse effect on retail, commercial, or industrial ratepayers or the reliability of the state's electricity system.

AFS is the major trade and technical association for the North American metalcasting industry with over 7,000 members. Currently, there are 1,965 foundries employing over 200,000 employees in the United States, which produce 13 million tons of castings per year. Metal castings are the foundation for all other manufacturing. In fact, 90 percent of all manufactured goods and capital equipment incorporate engineered castings into their makeup. We provide castings to a wide variety of industries, including, but not limited to: national defense, automotive, renewable energy, aerospace, medical, agriculture, construction, railroad, electric transmission, oil and gas, and water infrastructure.

AFS is proud to support the Ratepayer Protection Act of 2015. Once again, thank you for sponsoring H.R. 2042. We applaud your leadership on this important issue, and look forward to working with you as it advances through Congress.

Sincerely,

Jerry Call
CEO